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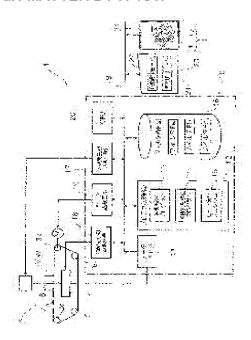
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(54) METHOD OF SETTING AUTOMATICALLY FILTER FOR PROCESSING X-RAY IMAGE, AND METHOD AND DETECTOR FOR DETECTING FOREIGN MATTER BY X-RAY

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To automatically set the optimum X-ray image processing filter optimum for an examined substance in an inspected object, without depending on experience of an operator.

SOLUTION: This X-ray image processing filter automatic setting method is provided with an X-ray irradiation process for irradiating a non-defective V contaminated with no foreign matter by an X-ray, an X-ray intensity data output process for outputting an X-ray intensity data S corresponding to a transmission amount of the X-ray transmitted through the non-defective V in accompaniment to the irradiation of the X-ray, an X-ray image data generating process for image-processing the X-ray intensity data S of the non-defective V by a plurality of kinds of X-ray image processing filters F for intensifying a foreign matter to generate an X-ray image data Iv in every of the filters F, and a filter extracting process for extracting the optimum X-ray image processing filter Fa based on the generated X-ray image data Iv.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

The X-ray exposure process which carries out exposure of the X-ray to the excellent article (V) with which the foreign matter is not mixed,

The X-ray intensity data output process which outputs the X-ray intensity data (S) corresponding to the amount of transparency of the X-ray which penetrates said excellent article in connection with the exposure of said X-ray,

The X-ray picture data generation process which carries out an image processing to said X-ray intensity data of said excellent article with two or more kinds of X-ray picture processing filters (F) for emphasizing said foreign matter, and generates X-ray picture data (Iv) for said every X-ray picture processing filter,

The filter extract process of extracting the optimal X-ray picture processing filter (Fa) based on the generated this X-ray picture data,

The X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach characterized by preparation ******

[Claim 2]

Said filter extract process is the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach according to claim 1 characterized by extracting the X-ray picture processing filter which generated the X-ray picture data with which the maximum pixel value serves as min among two or more generated X-ray picture data as said optimal X-ray picture processing filter.

[Claim 3]

The 2nd X-ray exposure process which carries out exposure of the X-ray to an inspected object (W),

The 2nd X-ray intensity data output process which outputs the X-ray intensity data corresponding to the amount of transparency of the X-ray which penetrates said inspected object in connection with the exposure of said X-ray,

The checking X-ray picture data generation process which performs an image processing with the X-ray picture processing filter (Fa) set up by one of approaches according to claim 1 or 2, and generates checking X-ray picture data (Iw),

The X-ray foreign matter detection approach characterized by having the foreign matter judging process of judging the existence of a foreign matter based on said checking X-ray picture data. [Claim 4]

The X-ray generator which carries out exposure of the X-ray to an inspected object (W) (6),

The X-ray detector which outputs the X-ray intensity data corresponding to the amount of

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transparency of the X-ray which detects the X-ray by which exposure was carried out and penetrates said inspected object (7),

A checking X-ray picture data generation means to perform an image processing with the X-ray picture processing filter (Fa) set up by one of approaches according to claim 1 or 2, and to generate checking X-ray picture data (Iw),

X-ray foreign matter detection equipment characterized by preparation ******.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach for detecting the foreign matter in an inspected object to the inspected object of each form, such as uncooked meat, a fish, a processed food, and a remedy, from the amount of transparency of the X-ray when carrying out exposure of the X-ray, the X-ray foreign matter detection approach, and X-ray foreign matter detection equipment.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

X-ray foreign matter detection equipment is equipment which detects whether exposure of the X-ray is carried out to the inspected objects (uncooked meat, a fish, a processed food, remedy, etc.) of each form by which sequential conveyance is carried out in a conveyance line top, and foreign matters, such as a metal, glass, a stone, and a bone, are mixing into an inspected object from the amount of transparency of this X-ray that carried out exposure.

[0003]

That is, the X-ray by which exposure was carried out to the inspected object from the X-ray generator is decreased with the foreign matter currently mixed an inspected object and in it. The rate of this attenuation changes with a component (the atomic number and consistency) and thickness, such as an inspected object (foreign matter ****), and its magnitude of attenuation increases, so that thickness is so thick that a "atomic-number x consistency" is high.

[0004]

For example, as for foreign matters, such as a metal and a stone, the X-ray intensity (or permeability) detected with the X-ray detector of the location which these foreign matters mixed [the "atomic-number x consistency"] since it was high which exists caudad becomes small rather than food. This obtained X-ray intensity is used, by performing the image processing which emphasizes a foreign matter using an image-processing filter further, effect of an inspected object is reduced and the signal of the foreign matter buried into the inspected object is extracted. And the foreign matter currently mixed in the inspected object is detected by judging that they are those with a foreign matter with a predetermined threshold. [0005]

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[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

However, although there are various filters about this X-ray picture processing filter, since the atomic number mentioned above depending on the inspected object used as a subject of examination and a consistency differ from thickness, a foreign matter signal may be extracted from the inspected object with which the effect of an inspected object may not be reduced good depending on the X-ray picture processing filter to apply, and the foreign matter is not mixed. [0006]

Moreover, since an atomic number and a consistency differ from thickness similarly about a foreign matter, it is necessary to make the X-ray picture processing filter with which a foreign matter signal may be buried in the signal of an inspected object, and can detect a foreign matter by high sensitivity from such an inspected object apply, when a difference with relative level of the foreign matter signal after an image processing and level of an inspected object is small. [0007]

Therefore, it was dependent on the experience of an operator etc. which X-ray picture processing filter is the optimal, and it could not judge whether the optimal X-ray picture processing filter would be applied for every inspected object, but had the case where foreign matter detection of high sensitivity could not be performed.

[0008]

This invention aims at carrying out automatic setting of the optimal X-ray picture processing filter for an inspected object to be examined, without being dependent on an experience of an operator in order to cancel the trouble of the conventional technique mentioned above. Moreover, it aims at a beginner making high sensitivity foreign matter detection realizable by this.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

The X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach according to claim 1 The X-ray exposure process which carries out exposure of the X-ray to the excellent article V with which the foreign matter is not mixed, and the X-ray intensity data output process which outputs the X-ray intensity data S corresponding to the amount of transparency of the X-ray which penetrates said excellent article V in connection with the exposure of said X-ray, The X-ray picture data generation process which carries out an image processing with two or more kinds of X-ray picture processing filters F for emphasizing said foreign matter to said X-ray intensity data S of said excellent article V, and generates the X-ray picture data Iv in said every X-ray picture processing filter F, It is characterized by having the filter extract process of extracting the optimal X-ray picture processing filter F based on the generated this X-ray picture data Iv. [0010]

According to claim 1, it becomes possible to carry out automatic setting of the optimal X-ray picture processing filter F for the excellent article V used as a subject of examination, and the inspected object W of the same kind, without being dependent on an experience of an operator. [0011]

The X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach according to claim 2 is characterized by said filter extract process extracting the X-ray picture processing filter Fa which generated the X-ray picture data Iva with which the maximum pixel value serves as min among two or more generated X-ray picture data Iv as said optimal X-ray picture processing filter F in the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach according to claim 1. [0012]

According to claim 2, the X-ray picture processing filter Fa which generated the X-ray picture data Iva with which the maximum pixel value serves as min among the X-ray picture data Iv in an excellent article V by extracting as optimal X-ray picture processing filter F In X-ray picture Iwa of the inspected object W with which the foreign matter was mixed, it becomes possible to become easy to distinguish the X-ray picture data If of a foreign matter, and the X-ray picture data Ig of the inspected object W except a foreign matter, and to carry out automatic setting of the high sensitivity X-ray picture processing filter Fa.

[0013]

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The 2nd X-ray exposure process that the X-ray foreign matter detection approach according to claim 3 carries out exposure of the X-ray to the inspected object W, The 2nd X-ray intensity data output process which outputs the X-ray intensity data S corresponding to the amount of transparency of the X-ray which penetrates said inspected object W in connection with the exposure of said X-ray, The checking X-ray picture data generation process which performs an image processing with the X-ray picture processing filter Fa set up by one of approaches according to claim 1 or 2, and generates the checking X-ray picture data Iw, It is characterized by having the foreign matter judging process of judging the existence of a foreign matter based on said checking X-ray picture data I.

[0014]
According to claim 3, it becomes possible to realize X-ray foreign matter detection of high sensitivity by performing the image processing of the inspected object W, and a foreign matter judging using the optimal X-ray picture processing filter Fa by which automatic setting was

[0015]

carried out.

X-ray generator 6 with which X-ray foreign matter detection equipment according to claim 4 carries out exposure of the X-ray to the excellent article V with which the foreign matter is not mixed, or the inspected object W, X-ray detector 7 which outputs the X-ray intensity data S corresponding to the amount of transparency of the X-ray which detects the X-ray by which exposure was carried out and penetrates said excellent article V or the inspected object W, It is characterized by having a checking X-ray picture data generation means to perform an image processing with the X-ray picture processing filter Fa set up by one of approaches according to claim 1 or 2, and to generate the checking X-ray picture data Iw.

[0016]

According to claim 4, it becomes possible to realize X-ray foreign matter detection of high sensitivity by performing the image processing of the inspected object W, and a foreign matter judging using the optimal X-ray picture processing filter Fa by which automatic setting was carried out.

[0017]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

[The hardware configuration of X-ray foreign matter detection equipment]

<u>Drawing 1</u> is the outline block block diagram of X-ray foreign matter detection equipment 1. X-ray foreign matter detection equipment 1 is formed in a part of conveyance line, and detects the existence of foreign matters, such as a metal mixed into the inspected object W by which sets predetermined spacing and sequential conveyance is carried out (a front face is also included), glass, a stone, and a bone.

[0018]

The hardware configuration of this X-ray foreign matter detection equipment 1 is explained. The abbreviation configuration of the X-ray foreign matter detection equipment 1 is carried out by the conveyance section 2, X-ray generator 6, X-ray detector 7, the processing section 10, the actuation input section 21, and the display 24.

[0019]

The conveyance section 2 conveys various kinds of inspected objects W, such as uncooked meat, a fish, a processed food, and a remedy, and consists of band conveyors horizontally arranged to equipment 1 body. The endless-like conveyance belt 4 is wound around four pulleys 3a, 3b, 3c, and 3d at the band conveyor 2. The conveyance section 2 makes the inspected object W convey by the predetermined bearer rate beforehand set up by actuation of drive-motor M connected to pulley 3a.

[0020]

[0021]

As shown in <u>drawing 1</u>, X-ray foreign matter detection equipment 1 is equipped with X-ray generator 6 which separates above the conveyance section 2 in predetermined height, and is formed in it, and X-ray detector 7 which counters with X-ray generator 6 and is formed in the conveyance section 2, and is constituted.

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X-ray generator 6 is the configuration that the X-ray tube of the shape of a cylinder prepared in a metal inside a case was immersed with insulating oil, makes the electron beam from the cathode of an X-ray tube irradiate an anode plate target, and is generating the X-ray. The X-ray tube is formed crosswise the conveyance direction of the inspected object W and the longitudinal direction cross at right angles. Towards downward X-ray detector 7, by the slit which is not illustrated [which was formed in the box base along with the longitudinal direction], the X-ray generated with the X-ray tube is made into the shape of an abbreviation triangle-like screen, and carries out exposure.

[0022]

X-ray detector 7 detects the X-ray by which exposure was carried out to the inspected object W and the excellent article V. The line sensor of the shape of an array equipped with two or more photodiodes arranged for example, in the shape of a line and the scintillator prepared on the photodiode is used for this X-ray detector 7. This photodiode consists of one line, and arranges and consists of 640 0.4mm pitches in the direction of a line (the direction of Y). [0023]

In this X-ray detector 7, when exposure of the X-ray is carried out from X-ray generator 6 to the inspected object W and an excellent article V, in response to that X-ray, it changes into light by the scintillator. The light furthermore changed by the scintillator is received by the photodiode arranged at the lower part. And each photodiode changes into an electrical signal the light which received light, and outputs it as X-ray detection data. After A/D conversion of the X-ray intensity data S is carried out in the A/D-conversion section which is not illustrated, they are stored in data memory 11.

[0024]

The abbreviation configuration of the processing section 10 is carried out by the bus 9 which connects CPU as the data memory 11 in which the X-ray intensity data S are stored, the program storing section as a record medium 12 with which the various programs 13–15 are stored, the filter storing section 16, the X-ray generator actuation circuit 17 that makes X-ray generator 6 drive, the X-ray detector actuation circuit 18 which makes X-ray detector 7 drive, the motorised circuit 19 which makes Motor M drive, and a computer 20, and these. [0025]

data memory 11 corresponded to the die length of the conveyance direction X of the inspected object W with which it is the semiconductor memory in which read/write, such as RAM, is possible, and the 640 one-line (direction of Y) per above-mentioned X-ray intensity data S are conveyed at least by the data memory 11 — the number (for example, 480 lines) storing of predetermined lines is carried out.

The program storing section 12 consists of HD, and the automatic setting program 13, the X-ray foreign matter detection program 14, and the mode executive program 15 are stored in the interior.

[0027]

[0026]

The filter storing section 16 consists of HD, and two or more kinds of X-ray picture processing filters F for extracting a foreign matter image from the radioparency image i of the inspected object W (or foreign matter extract algorithm) (this example three kinds of filter Fa-Fc) are stored. The X-ray picture processing filter F is a filter which emphasizes a foreign matter, for example, is a filter chosen from various kinds of feature-extraction filters, Laplacian filters, etc., such as a Sobel filter and a Prewitt filter. In addition, you may be the filter which improved these filters. Moreover, as for the kernel size of this X-ray picture processing filter F, various sizes are applied 3x3, 5x5, 7x7, 9x9, 11x11 grade, and if needed.

The X-ray generator actuation circuit 17 is impressing predetermined power to X-ray detector 7 by the command from CPU20, and carries out exposure of the line from X-ray generator 6. [0029]

The X-ray detector actuation circuit 18 makes the X-ray by which turned ON X-ray generator 6 by the command from CPU20, and exposure was carried out from X-ray generator 6 input.

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[0030]

the motorised circuit 19 — the command from CPU20 — since — predetermined power is supplied to Motor M by command, and Motor M is made to drive [0031]

CPU20 is a processor which carries out control control of the equipment 1 whole, and the X-ray intensity data S from the actuation command to each actuation circuits 17–19 and data memory 11 carry out reading appearance of it, and it performs various program executions, other data transfers, various operations, temporary storing of data, etc. [0032]

The actuation input section 21 is connected to a bus 9. The pushbutton switches 22 and 23 with selectable automatic setting mode and foreign matter detection mode are formed in the actuation input section 21, and the mode can be performed by carrying out the depression of the switches 22 and 23 in each mode, that is, it comes out with this actuation input section 21, CPU20, and the mode executive program 15, and a mode activation means is constituted. [0033]

A display 24 consists of liquid crystal displays etc., and the alphabetic character of the X-ray picture which carried out the image processing, and a foreign matter judging result, for example, "O.K.", and "NG" is displayed.

[0034]

[Selection and activation] in the mode

Next, selection and executive operation in the mode are explained using the flow chart of drawing 2. First, an operator does the selection input of the switch of either the automatic setting mode of the X-ray picture processing filter F, or X-ray foreign matter detection mode by carrying out a depression (S1). CPU20 reads the mode executive program 15 from the program storing section 12, and distinguishes the selected mode (S2). When automatic setting mode is chosen, (S2-automatic setting) and automatic setting processing are started (S3). On the other hand, when X-ray foreign matter detection mode is chosen, (S2-foreign matter detection) X-ray foreign matter detection processing is started (S4).

[0035]

[The automatic setting approach of the X-ray picture processing filter F] Next, the automatic setting approach of the X-ray picture processing filter F is explained using the flow chart of drawing 3. It is laid in the conveyance section 2, using as a sample the inspected object W V, for example, a boxed excellent article, with which it turns out that the foreign matter is not mixed probably.

[0036]

And if an operator does the depression of the carbon button in the automatic setting mode of the actuation input section 21 (S1), reading appearance of the automatic setting program 13 will be carried out by the mode executive program 15 in the program storing section 12, automatic setting processing will be performed (S2-automatic setting, S3), and an actuation command will be outputted to each actuation circuit from CPU20. Thereby, Motor M carries out revolution actuation and the conveyance section 2 starts conveyance of an excellent article V (S10). And exposure of the X-ray is carried out from X-ray generator 6 (S11). [0037]

Exposure of the X-ray is carried out to the shape of a screen of an abbreviation 3 angle configuration. Exposure is carried out to an excellent article V because an excellent article V passes this X-ray screen. In X-ray detector 7, the transparency X-ray which penetrated the excellent article V is inputted into a scintillator. And it is changed into an electrical signal with X-ray detector 7, and is outputted and stored in data memory 11 as X-ray intensity data S (S12).

[0038]

The X-ray intensity data S stored in data memory 11 are changed into the brightness information of for example, 256 gradation as pretreatment, as shown in <u>drawing 4</u> (S13). <u>Drawing 4</u> (a) is drawing having shown pretreatment image data (average value) i to which drawing having shown the X-ray intensity data (average value) S of the excellent article V scanned for every

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line of X-ray detector 7 and this drawing (b) pretreated the X-ray intensity data S of this drawing (a). That is, since the X-ray intensity of excellent article V(contents of box) Sg is declining [X-ray intensity Se to which the X-ray penetrated the edge part of the box of an excellent article V] in $\frac{drawing \ 4}{drawing \ 4}$ (a), in $\frac{drawing \ 4}{drawing \ 4}$ (b), the image data ie of the edge part of the box of an excellent article V is steep to the pretreatment image data ig of an excellent article V (contents of the box).

Next, filtering of this pretreatment image data i is carried out (S14). Although this filter processing is processing which extracts the image data of a foreign matter, the pretreatment image data of the edge part of a box becomes steeper with the pretreatment image data of a foreign matter with the X-ray picture processing filter F to process, or it makes steep only the X-ray picture data of a foreign matter, and makes the image data of the edge part of a box smooth. Therefore, in this filter processing, filtering of the pretreatment image data i of an excellent article V is carried out with all the X-ray picture processing filters F. [0040]

The X-ray picture processing filter Fa is first read from the filter storing section 16, pretreatment image data i is filtered, and the X-ray picture data Iva are generated. Drawing 5 (a) is drawing showing the X-ray picture data Iva after the filter processing. Similarly, the X-ray picture processing filter Fb is read from the filter storing section 16, pretreatment image data i is filtered, and the X-ray picture data Ivb are generated. Drawing 5 (b) is drawing showing the X-ray picture data Ivb after the filter processing. Furthermore, the X-ray picture processing filter Fc is read from the filter storing section 16, pretreatment image data i is filtered, and the X-ray picture data Ivc are generated. Drawing 5 (c) is drawing showing the X-ray picture data Ivc after the filter processing. In addition, in each drawing, it is X-ray picture data with which Ig expresses an excellent article (contents of the box) and Ie expresses the edge of a box.

[0041]

And when the filter processing with all the X-ray picture processing filters F is completed (S15–Yes), these three generated X-ray picture data Iva-Ivc is compared, and the maximum of that brightness value extracts the lowest X-ray picture data Iv. That is, the maximum brightness value Na of the X-ray picture data Iva (X-ray picture data Ie showing the edge of a box) and the maximum brightness value Nb (X-ray picture data Ie showing the edge of a box) of the X-ray picture data Ivb are compared with the maximum brightness value Nc (X-ray picture data Ie showing the edge of a box) of the X-ray picture data Ivc. In this case, the X-ray picture data Iva with the lowest maximum brightness value are extracted. And the X-ray picture processing filter Fa which generated this extracted X-ray picture data Iva is extracted as optimal X-ray picture processing filter F (S16).

[0042]

[0039]

And the foreign matter detection threshold T is set up (S17). As shown in <u>drawing 5</u> (a), the foreign matter detection threshold T is set as the value Ta which added the predetermined brightness value d from the maximum brightness value Na of the X-ray picture data Iva with the lowest maximum brightness value so that only the foreign matter image data If could be extracted. The set-up optimal foreign matter detection threshold Ta which X-ray-picture-processing-filter-Fa(ed), and was set up is stored in the predetermined field of data memory 11 (S18).

[0043]

Thereby, the automatic setting program 13 of the X-ray picture processing filter F becomes possible [realizing the automatic setting approach of the above-mentioned X-ray picture processing filter F by CPU20].

[0044]

[The X-ray foreign matter detection approach]

Next, the X-ray foreign matter detection approach is explained using the flow chart of <u>drawing</u> 6. The inspected object W which is not inspected [which is the same product as an excellent article V] is first laid in the conveyance section 2. [0045]

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And if an operator does the depression of the carbon button in the X-ray foreign matter detection mode of the actuation input section 21 (S1), reading appearance of the foreign matter detection program 14 will be carried out by the mode executive program 15 in the program storing section 12, X-ray foreign matter detection processing will be performed (S2-foreign matter detection, S3), and an actuation command will be outputted to each actuation circuits 17–19 from CPU20. Thereby, Motor M carries out revolution actuation and the conveyance section 2 starts conveyance of the inspected object W (S20). And X-ray exposure is carried out from X-ray generator 6 (S21). [0046]

Exposure of the X-ray is carried out to the shape of a screen of an abbreviation 3 angle configuration. Exposure is carried out to the inspected object W because the inspected object W passes this X-ray screen. In X-ray detector 7, the transparency X-ray which penetrated the inspected object W is inputted into a scintillator. And it is changed into an electrical signal with X-ray detector 7, and is outputted and stored in data memory 11 as X-ray intensity data S (S22).

[0047]

The X-ray intensity data S stored in data memory 11 are changed into the brightness information of for example, 256 gradation as pretreatment like automatic setting mode (S23). And the optimal foreign matter detection threshold Ta which is stored in data memory 11 and which X-ray-picture-processing-filter-Fa(ed), and was set up is read to this pretreatment image data i, filter processing is performed, and the checking X-ray picture data Iwa are generated (S24). Drawing 7 is drawing showing the checking X-ray picture data Iwa after filter processing. And a foreign matter judging is performed based on this checking X-ray picture data Iwa (S25). Since it is a larger brightness value than the foreign matter detection threshold Ta to which the X-ray picture data If of a foreign matter were set according to drawing 7, this inspected object W is judged to be those with a foreign matter (S26-No), and NG processing is carried out in the latter part (S28). On the other hand, when there are no X-ray picture data If of a foreign matter in the checking X-ray picture data Iwa, excellent article processing is carried out in (S26-Yes) and the latter part (S27).

[0048]

Thereby, the X-ray foreign matter detection program 14 becomes possible [realizing the above-mentioned X-ray foreign matter detection approach by CPU]. [0049]

In addition, the record medium [the computer 20 by which the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting program 13 and the X-ray foreign matter detection program 14 were recorded in X-ray foreign matter detection equipment 1] 12 as mentioned above which can be read, Xray generator 6 which carries out exposure of the X-ray, and X-ray detector 7 which detects the X-ray by which exposure was carried out and outputs the X-ray intensity data S, A mode activation means to choose and perform either of the automatic setting mode in which a computer 20 is made to read the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting program 13, and the X-ray foreign matter detection mode in which a computer 20 is made to read the X-ray foreign matter detection program 14 (15, 20, 21), By considering as preparation *****, it becomes possible to carry out automatic setting of the optimal X-ray picture processing filter Fa for the inspected object W to be examined, without being dependent on an experience of an operator. The X-ray picture processing filter Fa which generated the X-ray picture data Iva with which the maximum pixel value serves as min among the X-ray picture data Iv in an excellent article V especially by extracting as optimal X-ray picture processing filter F In the X-ray picture data Iwa of the inspected object W with which the foreign matter was mixed, it becomes possible to become easy to distinguish the X-ray picture data If of a foreign matter, and the X-ray picture data Ig of the inspected object W except a foreign matter, and to carry out automatic setting of the high sensitivity X-ray picture processing filter Fa. [0050]

Moreover, it becomes possible to realize X-ray foreign matter detection of high sensitivity by performing the image processing of the inspected object W, and a foreign matter judging using

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the optimal X-ray picture processing filter Fa by which automatic setting was carried out. [0051]

Furthermore, by choosing and performing either of automatic setting mode and X-ray foreign matter detection mode, with one equipment 1, automatic setting processing of the X-ray picture processing filter F and X-ray foreign matter detection processing can be performed, and share-ization of X-ray generator 6 or X-ray detector 7 can be attained.

[0052]

[Effect of the Invention]

According to claim 1, it becomes possible to carry out automatic setting of the optimal X-ray picture processing filter for an inspected object to be examined, without being dependent on an experience of an operator.

[0053]

According to claim 2, the X-ray picture processing filter which generated the X-ray picture data with which the maximum pixel value serves as min among the X-ray picture data in an excellent article by extracting as optimal X-ray picture processing filter In the X-ray picture of the inspected object with which the foreign matter was mixed, it becomes possible to become easy to distinguish the X-ray picture data of a foreign matter, and the X-ray picture data of the inspected object (excellent article) except a foreign matter, and to carry out automatic setting of the high sensitivity X-ray picture processing filter.

According to claim 3, it becomes possible to realize X-ray foreign matter detection of high sensitivity by performing the image processing of an inspected object, and a foreign matter judging using the optimal X-ray picture processing filter by which automatic setting was carried out.

[0055]

[0054]

According to claim 4, it becomes possible to realize X-ray foreign matter detection of high sensitivity by performing the image processing of an inspected object, and a foreign matter judging using the optimal X-ray picture processing filter by which automatic setting was carried out.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The outline block diagram of the X-ray foreign matter detection equipment by this invention.

[Drawing 2] The flow chart which shows the mode selection executive operation of the X-ray foreign matter detection equipment by this invention.

[Drawing 3] The flow chart which shows the procedure of the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach by this invention.

[Drawing 4] (a) Drawing showing the X-ray intensity data of an excellent article.

Drawing showing the pretreatment image data of (b) and (a).

[Drawing 5] (a) Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of the excellent article by this invention with the X-ray picture processing filter Fa.

- (b) Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of the excellent article by this invention with the X-ray picture processing filter Fb.
- (c) Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of the excellent article by this invention with the X-ray picture processing filter Fc.

<u>[Drawing 6]</u> The flow chart which shows the procedure of the X-ray foreign matter detection approach by this invention.

[Drawing 7] Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of an inspected object with the X-ray picture processing filter Fa by this invention.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 X-ray foreign matter detection equipment
- 6 -- X-ray generator
- 7 -- X-ray detector
- 13 Automatic setting program
- 14 Foreign matter detection program

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20 — Computer (CPU)

F (Fa, Fb, Fc) — X-ray picture processing filter

Iv (Iva, Ivb, Ivc) — X-ray picture data of an excellent article

Iw (Iwa, Iwb, Iwc) — X-ray picture data of an inspected object

S -- X-ray intensity data

V — Excellent article

W -- Inspected object

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The outline block diagram of the X-ray foreign matter detection equipment by this invention.

<u>[Drawing 2]</u> The flow chart which shows the mode selection executive operation of the X-ray foreign matter detection equipment by this invention.

[Drawing 3] The flow chart which shows the procedure of the X-ray picture processing filter automatic setting approach by this invention.

[Drawing 4] (a) Drawing showing the X-ray intensity data of an excellent article.

Drawing showing the pretreatment image data of (b) and (a).

[Drawing 5] (a) Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of the excellent article by this invention with the X-ray picture processing filter Fa.

- (b) Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of the excellent article by this invention with the X-ray picture processing filter Fb.
- (c) Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of the excellent article by this invention with the X-ray picture processing filter Fc.

<u>[Drawing 6]</u> The flow chart which shows the procedure of the X-ray foreign matter detection approach by this invention.

[Drawing 7] Drawing which carried out filtering of the pretreatment image data of an inspected object with the X-ray picture processing filter Fa by this invention.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 -- X-ray foreign matter detection equipment
- 6 -- X-ray generator
- 7 X-ray detector
- 13 Automatic setting program
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Iv (Iva, Ivb, Ivc) -- X-ray picture data of an excellent article

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S -- X-ray intensity data

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V — Excellent articleW — Inspected object

[Translation done.]

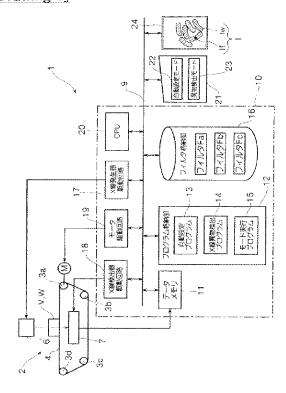
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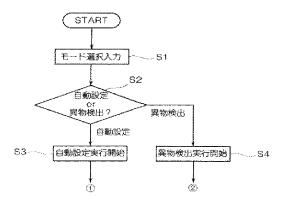
DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]

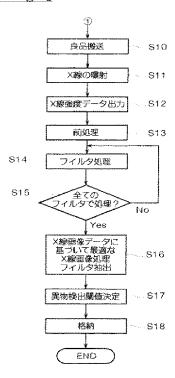


[Drawing 2]

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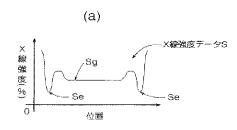


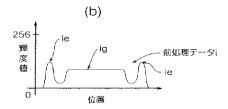
[Drawing 3]



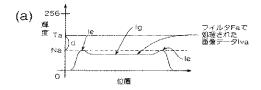
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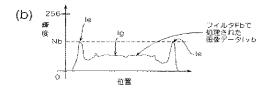
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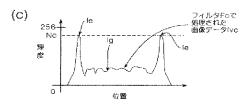




[Drawing 5]

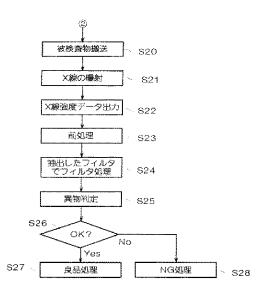




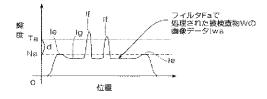


[Drawing 6]

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[Drawing 7]



[Translation done.]

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| | | | LA02 | LA03 | LA06 | PA11 | |
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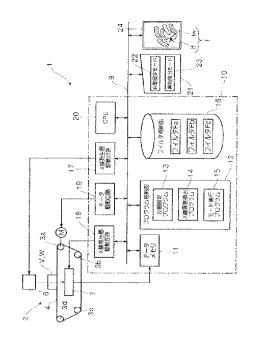
(54) 【発明の名称】 X線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法、 X線異物検出方法及び X線異物検出装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】オペレータの経験に依存せずに、検査対象の被 検査物に最適なX線画像処理フィルタを自動設定する。

【解決手段】X線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法は、異物が混入されていない良品VにX線を曝射するX線曝射工程と、X線の曝射に伴って良品Vを透過してくるX線の透過量に対応するX線強度データSを出力するX線強度データ出力工程と、良品Vの前記X線強度データSに異物を強調するための複数種類のX線画像処理フィルタFにより画像処理をしてX線画像処理フィルタF毎にX線画像データI vを生成するX線画像データ生成工程と、生成されたX線画像データI vに基づいて最適なX線画像処理フィルタFaを抽出するフィルタ抽出工程と、を備える。

【選択図】 図1



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

異物が混入されていない良品(V)にX線を曝射するX線曝射工程と、

前記 X 線の曝射に伴って前記良品を透過してくる X 線の透過量に対応する X 線強度データ (S)を出力するX線強度データ出力工程と、

前記良品の前記 X 線強度データに対して、前記異物を強調するための複数種類の X 線画像 処理フィルタ(F)により画像処理をして、前記X線画像処理フィルタ毎にX線画像デー タ(Iv)を生成するX線画像データ生成工程と、

該生成されたX線画像データに基づいて最適なX線画像処理フィルタ(Fa)を抽出する フィルタ抽出工程と、

を備えることを特徴とするX線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法。

【請求項2】

前記フィルタ抽出工程は、生成された複数のX線画像データ中その最大画素値が最小とな るX線画像データを生成したX線画像処理フィルタを、前記最適なX線画像処理フィルタ として抽出することを特徴とする請求項1記載のX線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法。

【請求項3】

被検査物(W)にX線を曝射する第2のX線曝射工程と、

前記X線の曝射に伴って前記被検査物を透過してくるX線の透過量に対応するX線強度デ ータを出力する第2のX線強度データ出力工程と、

請求項1又は2記載のいずれかの方法により設定されたX線画像処理フィルタ(Fa)に 20 より画像処理を施して、検査用X線画像データ(Iw)を生成する検査用X線画像データ 生成工程と、

前記検査用X線画像データに基づいて異物の有無を判定する異物判定工程と、を備えるこ とを特徴とするX線異物検出方法。

【請求項4】

被検査物(W)にX線を曝射するX線発生器(6)と、

曝射されたⅩ線を検出して、前記被検査物を透過してくるⅩ線の透過量に対応するⅩ線強 度データを出力する X 線検出器 (7) と、

請求項1又は2記載のいずれかの方法により設定されたX線画像処理フィルタ(Fa)に より画像処理を施して、検査用X線画像データ(Iw)を生成する検査用X線画像データ 30 生成手段と、

を備えることを特徴とするX線異物検出装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

$[0\ 0\ 0\ 1\]$

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、例えば生肉、魚、加工食品、医薬などの各品種の被検査物に対し、X線を曝射 したときのX線の透過量から被検査物中の異物を検出するためのX線画像処理フィルタ自 動設定方法、X線異物検出方法及びX線異物検出装置に関する。

$[0\ 0\ 0\ 2\]$

【従来の技術】

X線異物検出装置は、搬送ライン上を順次搬送されてくる各品種の被検査物(生肉、魚、 加工食品、医薬など)にX線を曝射し、この曝射したX線の透過量から被検査物中に金属 、ガラス、石、骨などの異物が混入しているか否かを検出する装置である。

[0003]

すなわち、X線発生器から被検査物に曝射されたX線は、被検査物やその中に混入されて いる異物により減衰される。この減衰の割合は、被検査物(異物含む)等の成分(原子番 号と密度)と厚みによって変わり、「原子番号×密度」が高いほど、また厚みが厚い程減 衰量が多くなる。

$[0\ 0\ 0\ 4\]$

例えば金属や石等の異物は、食品よりも「原子番号×密度」が高いため、これらの異物が 50

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混入した場所の下方にあるX線検出器で検出されるX線強度(又は透過率)が小さくなる。この得られたX線強度を利用し、更に画像処理フィルタを用いて異物を強調する画像処理を施すことで、被検査物の影響の低減を行い、被検査物中に埋もれた異物の信号を抽出する。そして、所定の閾値により異物有りか否かの判定をすることで、被検査物内に混入されている異物が検出される。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

しかしながら、この X 線画像処理フィルタについては、種々のフィルタがあるが、検査対象となる被検査物によっては、上述した原子番号や密度、厚みが異なるため、適用する X 線画像処理フィルタによっては、被検査物の影響が良好に低減されない場合があり、異物 10 が混入されていない被検査物から異物信号が抽出される場合がある。

[0006]

また、異物についても同様に、原子番号や密度、厚みが異なるため、画像処理後の異物信号のレベルと被検査物のレベルとが相対的な差が小さい場合、異物信号が被検査物の信号内に埋もれてしまう場合があり、このような被検査物から異物を高感度で検出できるX線画像処理フィルタを適用させる必要がある。

[0007]

したがって、どのX線画像処理フィルタが最適であるかは、オペレータの経験等に依存しており、各被検査物毎に最適なX線画像処理フィルタを適用しているか否かが判断できず、高感度の異物検出ができない場合があった。

[00008]

本発明は、上述した従来技術の問題点を解消するため、オペレータの経験に依存せずに、 検査対象の被検査物に最適なX線画像処理フィルタを自動設定することを目的とする。ま たこれにより、初心者でも高感度な異物検出を実現可能にすることを目的とする。

[0009]

【課題を解決するための手段】

請求項1記載のX線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法は、異物が混入されていない良品Vに X線を曝射するX線曝射工程と、前記X線の曝射に伴って前記良品Vを透過してくるX線 の透過量に対応するX線強度データSを出力するX線強度データ出力工程と、前記良品V の前記X線強度データSに対して前記異物を強調するための複数種類のX線画像処理フィ ルタFにより画像処理をして前記X線画像処理フィルタF毎にX線画像データIvを生成 するX線画像データ生成工程と、該生成されたX線画像データIvに基づいて最適なX線 画像処理フィルタFを抽出するフィルタ抽出工程と、を備えることを特徴とする。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 0\]$

請求項1によれば、オペレータの経験に依存せずに、検査対象となる良品Vと同種の被検査物Wに最適なX線画像処理フィルタFを自動設定することが可能となる。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 1]$

請求項2記載のX線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法は、請求項1記載のX線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法において、前記フィルタ抽出工程は、生成された複数のX線画像データIv中その最大画素値が最小となるX線画像データIvaを生成したX線画像処理フィル 40 タFaを、前記最適なX線画像処理フィルタFとして抽出することを特徴とする。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 2]$

[0013]

請求項3記載のX線異物検出方法は、被検査物WにX線を曝射する第2のX線曝射工程と、前記X線の曝射に伴って前記被検査物Wを透過してくるX線の透過量に対応するX線強

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度データSを出力する第2のX線強度データ出力工程と、請求項1又は2記載のいずれかの方法により設定されたX線画像処理フィルタFaにより画像処理を施して検査用X線画像データIwを生成する検査用X線画像データ生成工程と、前記検査用X線画像データIに基づいて異物の有無を判定する異物判定工程と、を備えることを特徴とする。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 4\]$

請求項3によれば、自動設定された最適なX線画像処理フィルタFaを用いて被検査物Wの画像処理及び異物判定を実行することにより、高感度のX線異物検出を実現することが可能となる。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 5]$

請求項4記載のX線異物検出装置は、異物が混入されていない良品V又は被検査物WにX 10線を曝射するX線発生器6と、曝射されたX線を検出して前記良品V又は被検査物Wを透過してくるX線の透過量に対応するX線強度データSを出力するX線検出器7と、請求項1又は2記載のいずれかの方法により設定されたX線画像処理フィルタFaにより画像処理を施して検査用X線画像データIwを生成する検査用X線画像データ生成手段と、を備えることを特徴とする。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 6\]$

請求項4によれば、自動設定された最適なX線画像処理フィルタFaを用いて被検査物Wの画像処理及び異物判定を実行することにより、高感度のX線異物検出を実現することが可能となる。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 7]$

【発明の実施の形態】

[X線異物検出装置のハードウェア構成]

図1はX線異物検出装置1の概略ブロック構成図である。X線異物検出装置1は、搬送ラインの一部に設けられ、所定間隔をおいて順次搬送されてくる被検査物W中(表面も含む)に混入される金属、ガラス、石、骨などの異物の有無を検出するものである。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 8]$

この X 線異物検出装置 1 のハードウェア構成について説明する。 X 線異物検出装置 1 は、搬送部 2 , X 線発生器 6 , X 線検出器 7 , 処理部 1 0 , 操作入力部 2 1 , 表示部 2 4 で略構成される。

$[0\ 0\ 1\ 9\]$

搬送部2は、例えば生肉、魚、加工食品、医薬などの各種の被検査物Wを搬送するもので、例えば装置1本体に対して水平に配置されたベルトコンベアで構成される。ベルトコンベア2には、4つのプーリ3a,3b,3c,3dに無端状の搬送ベルト4が巻回されている。搬送部2は、プーリ3aに接続された駆動モータMの駆動により予め設定された所定の搬送速度で被検査物Wを搬送させる。

[0020]

図1に示すように、X線異物検出装置1は、搬送部2の上方に所定高さ離れて設けられる X線発生器6と、搬送部2内にX線発生器6と対向して設けられるX線検出器7を備えて 構成される。

$[0\ 0\ 2\ 1]$

X線発生器6は、金属製の箱体内部に設けられる円筒状のX線管を絶縁油により浸漬した構成であり、X線管の陰極からの電子ビームを陽極ターゲットに照射させてX線を生成している。X線管は、その長手方向が被検査物Wの搬送方向と直交する幅方向に設けられている。X線管により生成されたX線は、下方のX線検出器7に向けて、箱体底面に長手方向に沿って形成された不図示のスリットにより、略三角形状のスクリーン状にして曝射するようになっている。

$[0 \ 0 \ 2 \ 2]$

X線検出器7は、被検査物Wや良品Vに対して曝射されたX線を検出する。このX線検出器7には、例えば、ライン状に配列された複数のフォトダイオードと、フォトダイオード上に設けられたシンチレータと、を備えたアレイ状のラインセンサが用いられる。このフ 50

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ォトダイオードは、例えば、1ラインで構成されライン方向(Y方向)に0.4mmピッチで640個配置されて構成される。

[0023]

この X 線検出器 7 では、被検査物Wや良品 V に対して X 線発生器 6 から X 線が曝射されたときに、その X 線をシンチレータで受けて光に変換する。さらにシンチレータで変換された光は、その下部に配置されるフォトダイオードによって受光される。そして、各フォトダイオードは、受光した光を電気信号に変換し、 X 線検出データとして出力する。 X 線強度データ S は、図示しない A / D 変換部で A / D 変換された後、データメモリ 1 1 に格納される。

[0024]

処理部10は、X線強度データSが格納されるデータメモリ11,各種プログラム13~15が格納される記録媒体12としてのプログラム格納部,フィルタ格納部16,X線発生器 6を駆動させるX線発生器駆動回路17,X線検出器7を駆動させるX線検出器駆動回路18,モータMを駆動させるモータ駆動回路19,コンピュータ20としてのCPU及びこれらを接続するバス9で略構成される。

$[0\ 0\ 2\ 5]$

データメモリ11はRAM等のリード/ライト可能な半導体メモリであり、そのデータメモリ11には、1ライン(Y方向)あたり上記640個のX線強度データSが、少なくとも搬送される被検査物Wの搬送方向Xの長さに対応した所定ライン数(例えば480ライン)格納される。

[0026]

プログラム格納部12は、例えばHDで構成され、内部には、自動設定プログラム13, X線異物検出プログラム14,モード実行プログラム15が格納されている。

$[0\ 0\ 2\ 7\]$

フィルタ格納部16は、例えばHDで構成され、被検査物WのX線透過画像iから異物画像を抽出するための複数種類のX線画像処理フィルタF(又は異物抽出アルゴリズム)(本例では3種類のフィルタFa~Fc)が格納されている。X線画像処理フィルタFは、異物を強調するフィルタであり、例えば、Sobelフィルタ,Prewittフィルタ等の各種の特徴抽出フィルタやラプラシアンフィルタ等から選ばれたフィルタである。なお、これらのフィルタを改良したフィルタであってもよい。また、このX線画像処理フィルタFのカーネルサイズは3×3,5×5,7×7,9×9,11×11等、必要に応じて種々のサイズが適用される。

[0028]

X線発生器駆動回路17は、CPU20からの指令によりX線検出器7に対し所定の電力を印加することで、X線発生器6から線を曝射させる。

[0029]

X線検出器駆動回路18は、CPU20からの指令によりX線発生器6をONにして、X線発生器6から曝射されたX線を入力させる。

[0030]

モータ駆動回路19は、CPU20からの指令によりからの指令によりモータMに対し所 40 定電力を供給してモータMを駆動させる。

[0031]

CPU20は、装置1全体を統轄制御するプロセッサであり、各駆動回路17~19への駆動指令、データメモリ11からのX線強度データSの読み出し、各種プログラムの実行、その他データの転送、種々の演算、データの一時的な格納等を行う。

[0032]

構成する。

[0033]

表示部24は、例えば液晶ディスプレイ等で構成され、画像処理したX線画像や、異物判定結果、例えば「OK」,「NG」の文字が表示される。

[0034]

[モードの選択及び実行]

次に、モードの選択及び実行処理について、図2のフローチャートを用いて説明する。まず、オペレータは、X線画像処理フィルタFの自動設定モード又はX線異物検出モードのいずれかのスイッチを押下することで選択入力する(S1)。CPU20は、プログラム格納部12からモード実行プログラム15を読み出して、選択されたモードを判別する(S2)。自動設定モードが選択された場合は(S2ー自動設定)、自動設定処理を開始する(S3)。一方、X線異物検出モードが選択された場合は(S2ー異物検出)、X線異物検出処理を開始する(S4)。

[0035]

「X線画像処理フィルタFの自動設定方法]

次に、X線画像処理フィルタFの自動設定方法について、図3のフローチャートを用いて 説明する。まず異物が混入されていないことが分かっている被検査物W、例えば箱入りの 良品Vをサンプルとして搬送部2に載置する。

[0036]

そして、オペレータが操作入力部 2 1 の自動設定モードのボタンを押下すると(S 1)、プログラム格納部 1 2 内のモード実行プログラム 1 5 により、自動設定プログラム 1 3 が読み出されて自動設定処理が実行され(S 2 一自動設定,S 3)、C P U 2 0 から各駆動回路へ駆動指令が出力される。これにより、モータMが回転駆動して搬送部 2 が良品 V の搬送を開始する(S 1 0)。そして、X 線発生器 6 から X 線が曝射される(S 1 1)。

[0037]

X線は、略3角形状のスクリーン状に曝射される。このX線スクリーンを良品Vが通過することで、良品Vに曝射される。X線検出器7では、良品Vを透過した透過X線がシンチレータに入力される。そして、X線検出器7にて電気信号に変換され、X線強度データSとしてデータメモリ11へ出力され、格納される(S12)。

[0038]

データメモリ11に格納されたX線強度データSは、図4に示すように、前処理として、例えば256階調の輝度情報に変換される(S13)。図4(a)は、例えば、X線検出器7の各ライン毎にスキャンされた良品VのX線強度データ(の平均値)Sを示した図、同図(b)は、同図(a)のX線強度データSを前処理した前処理画像データ(の平均値)iを示した図である。すなわち、図4(a)では、X線が良品Vの箱の端縁部分を透過したX線強度S eが良品V(箱の中身)S gのX線強度が減衰されているので、図4(b)では、良品V(箱の中身)の前処理画像データi g i

[0039]

$[0\ 0\ 4\ 0\]$

まずフィルタ格納部16からX線画像処理フィルタFaを読み出して、前処理画像データiをフィルタリングしてX線画像データIvaを生成する。図5(a)はそのフィルタ処理後のX線画像データIvaを示す図である。同様に、フィルタ格納部16からX線画像処理フィルタFbを読み出して、前処理画像データiをフィルタリングしてX線画像デー

タIvbを生成する。図5(b)はそのフィルタ処理後のX線画像データIvbを示す図である。更に、フィルタ格納部16からX線画像処理フィルタFcを読み出して、前処理画像データiをフィルタリングしてX線画像データIvcを生成する。図5(c)はそのフィルタ処理後のX線画像データIvcを示す図である。なお、各図において、Igは良品(箱の中身)、Ieは箱の端縁を表すX線画像データである。

$[0\ 0\ 4\ 1]$

そして、総ての X線画像処理フィルタ Fによるフィルタ処理が終了した場合(S 1 5 - Y e s)、この生成された 3 つの X 線画像データ I v a \sim I v c を比較し、その輝度値の最大値が最も低い X 線画像データ I v b の最大輝度値N a (箱の端縁を表す X 線画像データ I e)と、 X 線画像データ I v b の最大輝度 I0 値N b (箱の端縁を表す X 線画像データ I e)と、 X 線画像データ I v c の最大輝度値N c (箱の端縁を表す X 線画像データ I e)と、 E と、 E と、 E と、 E を比較する。 E この場合、 E 大輝度値が最も低い E ない E は、 E ない E ない E ない E は、 E ない E ない E は、 E ない E ない

[0042]

[0043]

これにより、X線画像処理フィルタFの自動設定プログラム13が、上述のX線画像処理フィルタFの自動設定方法をCPU20によって実現することが可能となる。

[0044]

[X線異物検出方法]

次に、X線異物検出方法について、図6のフローチャートを用いて説明する。まず良品Vと同じ製品である未検査の被検査物Wを搬送部2に載置する。

[0045]

そして、オペレータが操作入力部 2 1 の X 線異物検出モードのボタンを押下すると(S 1)、プログラム格納部 1 2 内のモード実行プログラム 1 5 により、異物検出プログラム 1 4 が読み出されて X 線異物検出処理が実行され(S 2 一異物検出,S 3)、C P U 2 0 から各駆動回路 1 7 ~ 1 9 へ駆動指令が出力される。これにより、モータ M が回転駆動して搬送部 2 が被検査物 W の搬送を開始する(S 2 0)。そして、 X 線発生器 6 から X 線曝射される(S 2 1)。

[0046]

X線は、略3角形状のスクリーン状に曝射される。このX線スクリーンを被検査物Wが通過することで、被検査物Wに曝射される。X線検出器7では、被検査物Wを透過した透過X線がシンチレータに入力される。そして、X線検出器7にて電気信号に変換され、X線強度データSとしてデータメモリ11へ出力され、格納される(S22)。

[0047]

 線画像データIfが無い場合は(S26-Yes)、後段で良品処理される(S27)。

[0048]

これにより、X線異物検出プログラム14が上述のX線異物検出方法をCPUによって実現することが可能となる。

[0049]

なお、上述のように、X線異物検出装置 1 を、X 線画像処理フィルタ自動設定プログラム 1 3,X 線異物検出プログラム 1 4 が記録されたコンピュータ 2 0 に読み取り可能な記録媒体 1 2 と、X 線を曝射する X 線発生器 6 と、曝射された X 線を検出して X 線 強度データ S を出力する X 線検出器 T と、X 終画像処理フィルタ自動設定プログラム 1 3 をコンピュータ 2 0 に読み取らせる自動設定モードと X 線異物検出プログラム 1 4 をコンピュータ 2 0 に読み取らせる X 線異物検出モードとのいずれかを選択して実行するモード実行手段(1 5,2 0,2 1)と、を備えることとすることにより、オペレータの経験に依存せずに、検査対象の被検査物Wに最適な X 線画像処理フィルタ F a を自動設定することが可能となる。特に、良品 V における X 線画像データ I V 中その最大画素値が最小となる X 線画像データ I V a を生成した X 線画像処理フィルタ Y a を Y a Y b Y a

[0050]

また、自動設定された最適なX線画像処理フィルタFaを用いて被検査物Wの画像処理及 20 び異物判定を実行することにより、高感度のX線異物検出を実現することが可能となる。

 $[0\ 0\ 5\ 1]$

更に、自動設定モードとX線異物検出モードとのいずれかを選択して実行することにより、一台の装置1で、X線画像処理フィルタFの自動設定処理と、X線異物検出処理と、を実行することができ、X線発生器6やX線検出器7の共有化を図ることができる。

 $[0\ 0\ 5\ 2\]$

【発明の効果】

請求項1によれば、オペレータの経験に依存せずに、検査対象の被検査物に最適なX線画像処理フィルタを自動設定することが可能となる。

[0053]

請求項2によれば、良品におけるX線画像データ中その最大画素値が最小となるX線画像データを生成したX線画像処理フィルタを、最適なX線画像処理フィルタとして抽出することにより、異物が混入された被検査物のX線画像において、異物のX線画像データと、異物を除く被検査物(良品)のX線画像データと、を区別し易くなり、高感度なX線画像処理フィルタを自動設定することが可能となる。

 $[0\ 0\ 5\ 4\]$

請求項3によれば、自動設定された最適なX線画像処理フィルタを用いて被検査物の画像処理及び異物判定を実行することにより、高感度のX線異物検出を実現することが可能となる。

[0055]

請求項4によれば、自動設定された最適なX線画像処理フィルタを用いて被検査物の画像処理及び異物判定を実行することにより、高感度のX線異物検出を実現することが可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

- 【図1】本発明によるX線異物検出装置の概略構成図。
- 【図2】本発明によるX線異物検出装置のモード選択実行処理を示すフローチャート。
- 【図3】本発明によるX線画像処理フィルタ自動設定方法の処理手順を示すフローチャート。
- 【図4】(a)良品のX線強度データを示す図。
- (b) (a)の前処理画像データを示す図。

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【図5】(a)本発明による良品の前処理画像データをX線画像処理フィルタFaでフィルタ処理した図。

- (b) 本発明による良品の前処理画像データを X 線画像処理フィルタ F b でフィルタ処理した図。
- (c)本発明による良品の前処理画像データをX線画像処理フィルタFcでフィルタ処理 した図。
- 【図6】本発明によるX線異物検出方法の処理手順を示すフローチャート。
- 【図7】本発明により被検査物の前処理画像データをX線画像処理フィルタFaでフィルタ処理した図。

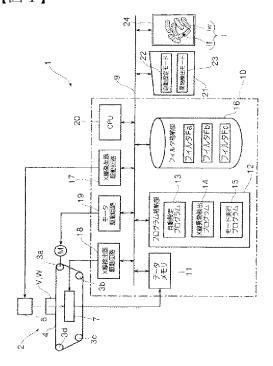
【符号の説明】

- 1 ··· X 線異物検出装置
- 6 ··· X 線発生器
- 7… X線検出器
- 13…自動設定プログラム
- 14…異物検出プログラム
- 20…コンピュータ (CPU)
- F (Fa, Fb, Fc) … X線画像処理フィルタ
- Iv(Iva, Ivb, Ivc)…良品のX線画像データ
- Iw(Iwa, Iwb, Iwc)…被検査物のX線画像データ
- S…X線強度データ

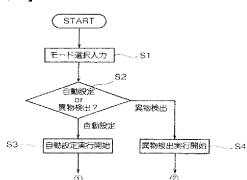
V…良品

W…被検査物

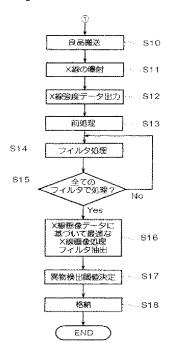




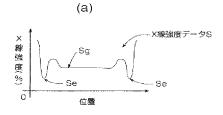
【図2】

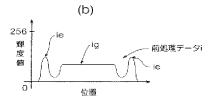


【図3】

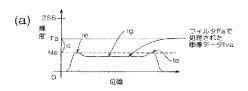


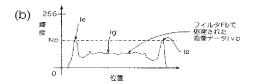
【図4】

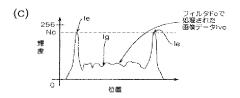




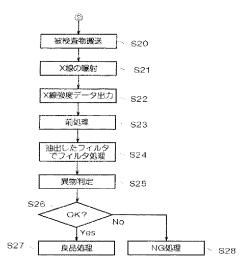
【図5】



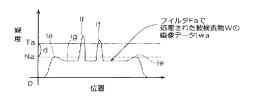




【図6】



【図7】



フロントページの続き

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